

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS: For clarification purposes, the Applicant is hereby requesting that the examiner cancel all claims previously in the record and replace with the claims listed below. As noted in the office action, the application was originally filed with 4 pending claims. Claims 1-4 were canceled and replaced with 86 new claims that were originally number 1-86. For clarity purposes, these claims retroactively represented claim numbers 5-90 (renumbered to avoid confusion with the first 4 pending claims) to the extent that such claims are consecutively numbered as required by 37 C.F.R. 121 as recently adopted. In a response (dated June 28, 2004) to an office action rejecting the claims for lack of patentable subject matter, 31 new claims were added and the prior claims 5-90 were canceled. To the extent that the prior responses were deficient and not entered, Applicant respectfully requests cancellation of all previously pending claims (identified herein as claims 5-90). To summarize:

Claims 1-4 were originally pending and were canceled pursuant to a preliminary amendment dated August 5, 2002. These are no longer pending.

Claims 5-90 were added via preliminary amendment on August 5, 2002, (and originally number 1-86) and were cancelled pursuant to the response dated June 28, 2004. To the extent that the request included within the response filed on June 28, 2004, was not formally accepted as a result of non-compliance with 37 C.F.R. 121, Applicant respectfully request cancellation of these claims pursuant to this response as reflected in the claims listing below.

Claims 91-121 are new claims meant to more carefully address the software embodiment of the present invention. The claims listing below is a complete list of ALL claims that will be pending in this application following cancellation of claims 5-90. Each of the now pending claims are “new” even if they are drawn to the same subject matter previously set forth in the formerly pending claims.

Applicant is unclear where there may be additional confusion but, to avoid any further confusion, this listing of claims in compliance with 37 C.F.R. 121 will replace all prior versions and will include (for clarification purposes only) the status of all claims that may be considered as pending in this application:

Listing of Claims:

Claims 1-86 (re-numbered as 5-90) are hereby cancelled.

The following claims are new and are now pending in the current application.

91. (new) A method for graphically representing information using one or more software routines that include an electronic toolbox and are capable of powering a displaying the electronic structure created using the software routines, said method comprising:

Selecting one or more items from an electronic toolbox provided in a software routine or program, wherein each item is selected to symbolize a topic or issue associated with a specific subject;

Identifying at least one connection from the electronic toolbox that represents a logical, intuitive or metamorphical connection between the selected items;

connecting one or more items with a connector until each selected item is connected to at least one other selected item;

displaying the electronic structure to at least one viewer;

recording any communications by the viewer in response to the viewing the electronic structure; and

storing one or more explanations of any symbolic representations reflected each item and connection included within the electronic structure.

92. (new) The method of claim 91, further comprising the steps of:

providing a viewer with one or more electronically stored explanations and an electronic copy of the structure;

permitting the viewer to modify the electronic structure by selecting one or more additional items from the electronic toolbox that represent information about the subject as communicated by the viewer; and

responsive to the addition of an item to the structure, adding a connector that represents a connection between the additional item and the structure.

93. (new) The method of claim 91, wherein the step of selecting items from an electronic toolbox includes selecting flat images such as photographs or drawings.

94. (new) The method of claim 93, wherein the step of selecting items from an electronic toolbox includes selecting a 3-dimensional shape.
95. (new) The method of claim 94, wherein the step of connecting one or more items includes connecting a flat image and a selected 3-dimensional shape such that the image becomes the surface of the selected shape.
96. (new) The method of claim 91, wherein the step of storing explanations includes storing any symbolic analysis of the representations.
97. (new) The method of claim 91, wherein the step of storing explanations includes storing any interpretations of the representations.
98. (new) The method of claim 91, wherein the step of storing explanations includes storing any oral descriptions in one or more electronic files that can be associated with the electronic structure.
99. (new) The method of claim 91, wherein the step of storing explanations includes storing any written descriptions in one or more electronic files that can be associated with the electronic structure.
100. (new) The method of claim 91, wherein the step of storing explanations includes storing any non-verbal descriptions in one or more electronic video files that can be associated with the electronic structure.
101. (new) The method of claim 91 , wherein the step of storing explanations includes storing any explanations and the electronic structure being explained together on a network server.
102. (new) The method of claim 101, further comprising the step of providing an index to any electronic structures that are stored on the network server.
103. (new) The method of claim 102, wherein the step of providing an index includes providing a list of electronic structures by the subject of the electronic structures.
104. (new) The method of claim 91, wherein the step of selecting items from an electronic toolbox includes selecting one or more electronic drawing tools that can be used to draw the item.
105. (new) The method of claim 91, wherein the step of storing one or more explanations includes storing a description of the intended meaning of the items in the structure at the time it was being assembled.
106. (new) The method of claim 91, wherein the step of assembling includes assembling structures having more than five dimensions.

107. (new) The method of claim 91, wherein the step of assembling includes using art materials to assemble the structure such as pens, paints, photographs, and drawings;
108. (new) The method of claim 91, wherein the step of connecting one or more items with a logical connection includes using hierarchical relations between the items.
109. (new) The method of claim 92, wherein the viewer is more than one person.
110. (new) The method of claim 109, further comprising the steps of viewed the electronic structure;

recording one or more explanations of the electronic structure by other individuals that have

storing the explanations on an electronic media; and

logically linking the stored explanation with the electronic structure.
111. (new) The method of claim 110, wherein the step of logically linking the stored explanation with the electronic structure includes the step of creating an electronic link, such as a hyperlink, to both the explanation and a stored copy of the electronic structure.
112. (new) The method of claim 110, further comprising the step of permitting modification of the electronic structure by the viewer in order to apply the symbolic ideas represented by electronic structure to a different subject.
113. (new) A software system for facilitating the creation of one or more symbolic structures, said comprising:

a processor for processing one or more software routines;

an electronic display connected to said processor for displaying output as requested by the software routines;

electronic memory connected to said processor for storing a collection of electronic media that can be used to represent information concerning a given subject; and

logically connected to said electronic memory and the processor, a software routine capable of providing:

an electronic toolbox;

an n-dimensional electronic palette for placing one or more items from the electronic toolbox into n-dimensional space; and

a dimensional routine, wherein such dimensional routine enables a user to view and edit any structures using the electronic toolbox by changing at least one-dimension of the n-dimensional palette.

114. (new) The system of claim 113, wherein the software routine is capable of providing an electronic toolbox that includes links to one or more media items stored in electronic memory.
115. (new) The system of claim 113, wherein the software routine is capable of providing an electronic toolbox that includes one or more objects that visually represent logical relations.
116. (new) The system of claim 115, wherein the electronic memory is capable of storing one or more structures created on the electronic palette using the electronic toolbox.
117. (new) The system of claim 113, wherein the electronic memory includes one or more electronic media that have been added by a user.
118. (new) The system of claim 113, wherein the software routine includes a dimensional routine that can change the dimension of time.
119. (new) The system of claim 113, wherein the software routine includes a dimensional routine that can change or more dimensions of three-dimensional space.
120. (new) The system of claim 113, wherein the software routine further includes a software routine that is capable of putting one or more items of electronic media into motion within the electronic palette.
121. (new) The system of claim 113, wherein the software routine further includes a software routine that is capable of making one or more items of electronic media flash within the electronic palette.